AMENDMENT

U.S. Application No. 09/922,700

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] FIG. 4, depicts another preferred embodiment of the method of the current invention, and illustrates one form of a visual index. The example is of a visual index for U.S. patents associated with detergents and laundry or agricultural applications. Patents in the top section represent the patents that are clustered together because they use vocabulary that describes laundry applications of detergents. Patents in the middle section are clustered together because they use vocabulary that describes agricultural applications of detergents. Patents in the lower section are not relevant to the two categories plotted. Patents that are plotted along an axis, for convenience labeled 1, 6, 11, 16, are patents assigned to individuals. Patents connected by a line belong to a single assignee. FIG. 4 also represents additional information that can be available with a point and click method, but which may not be initially shown on the visual index.

Please replace paragraph [0085] with the following amended paragraph:

[0085] FIG. 4 is an example of a technology evolution picture or visual patent index for a selected set of patents involving the use of surfactants in laundry and agriculture. Optionally, it is possible to further link each point to additional data or even the entire patent by applying point and click techniques. An example of such a method is also diagrammed in FIG. 4.

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Please replace paragraph [0115] with the following paragraph:


[0115] Step 280 is similar to Step 100. In Step 280, a standard picture of patent art evolution in a Technology Topic can be assembled by plotting the patents on an x-y grid with the filing date or issue date along the x-axis with assignees separated along the y-axis. Single patents can be plotted together along an identified section of the y-axis. One or more Technology Topics can be plotted together in the same figure, forming a visual index similar to FIG. 4. It is possible with website-like programming methods to further link each point to additional data or even the entire patent. An example of such a method is also diagrammed in FIG. 4.